

REGULAR MEETING OF
NEWARK HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
Held June 18, 1963 at City Hall
Newark, N. J.

The meeting was opened by Mr. Anthony with a moment of silent prayer in memory of Medgar Evers.

The following Commissioners were present:

John F. Cahill
Paul G. Cavicchia
Benjamin Epstein
Richard J. Foley
Mrs. Sylvia Josephson

Dr. Maxwell Kaye
Lt. J. M. Marks
Herbert H. Tate
Lucius H. Thompkins

The following Commissioners were absent:

William M. Ashby
Leonard L. Holman

Louis S. Pitts
Dr. Jack York

Daniel S. Anthony, Executive Director of the Commission, acted as Chairman of the meeting because of the absence of the Vice-Chairman, Leonard Holman, and the retirement of the former Chairman, Alexander Mark.

TRIBUTE TO CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER MARK

A few words of tribute were spoken by Mr. Anthony on the retirement of Alexander Mark after serving three terms as Chairman of the Commission. Mr. Anthony spoke of Mr. Mark's modesty, sincerity and the fine integrity he displayed in the recent crucial period of the civil rights struggle. Mr. Cavicchia, Lt. Marks and Mrs. Josephson also told of the great loss they felt the Commission had sustained in the retirement of Mr. Mark, and of their own admiration and respect for him. A plaque signed by Mayor

Hugh J. Addonizio and Daniel S. Anthony was then awarded to Mr. Mark for his 8 years of service and devotion, which was acknowledged by a few words by him.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Anthony introduced the following newly appointed Commission members: Mr. Benjamin Epstein, Mr. Herbert Tate and Deputy Chief Richard J. Foley.

BROTHERHOOD YOUTH INSTITUTE SCHOLARSHIPS

Walter Chambers, Associate Director of N. C. C. J. and Director of the Brotherhood Youth Institute, was introduced by the Chairman. Mr. Chambers spoke of the coming Institute which will be held August 25-30, 1963 and will consist of 150 high school students of many different backgrounds. Several of these students, for whom scholarships have been requested from the Newark Human Rights Commission were introduced and made short statements as to their reasons for wanting to attend the institute.

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RELATIONS WORKSHOP

Mrs. Josephson then told about the coming International Human Relations Workshop which will be composed of 60 people, 30 from all over the world and 30 from this country. She read a letter which asked for the awarding of four scholarships from the Newark Human Rights Commission, for two staff members, Mrs. Marie Gonzalez and Mr. Ralph Zinn, also Mr. Malcolm Ellington of the Newark Housing Authority and Rev. Kim Jefferson from Trinity Methodist Church. Mr. Cahill asked the status of the treasury of the Newark Human Rights Commission and Mr. Anthony

explained that since there would be no regular Rutgers Workshop held this year, there would be funds for the International Workshop.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed that the additional \$200 appropriation be made for Mrs. Gonzalez and Mr. Zinn to attend this Workshop.

CITIZENS' COMPLAINTS

Mr. Anthony then announced that his office had received several letters which contained requests for permission to address the Commission with regard to complaints on human relations matters. A letter was read from Mr. Herbert Johnson but he was not present to speak. A letter from Mr. Timothy Still, representing the Irvine Turner Association, was then read regarding unemployment of Negroes in Newark, etc. In answer to questioning, Mr. Still talked about injustices in Judge Castellano's Court and mentioned several cases.

Mr. Cavicchia suggested that these matters be brought to the attention of the Mayor and the Cabinet by Mr. Anthony. In the course of the discussion of Mr. Still's report, several questions were asked of him, one by Dr. Kaye as to an explanation of the Brown case. In answer to other queries, Deputy Chief Foley announced that a Precinct Council had been formed which would be in effect by July 1st. It is his understanding that at these Council meetings, the Precinct Captain would be present and each Council would consist of 15 to 25 people from that particular precinct. The Commission has been asked to sit in on each and every Precinct meeting. Since Mr. Still stated that he believed more than half the Negroes in Newark "think there is police brutality here", and "if they think so, there must be some ground for this", Mr. Foley expressed the feeling that the

Precinct Councils would help matters.

A letter from Mr. Don and Mr. Alfred Carter was then read by Mr. Anthony. After a motion was made by Mr. Herbert Tate, seconded and unanimously passed that remarks made by Mr. Don Carter and several members of the Commission be stricken from the record, Alfred Carter took the floor and criticized the Commission for not being a place where citizens could come forward to air their complaints, because of the official connections of some of the Commission members. There followed a discussion by several members, including Mr. Epstein, Mr. Tate, Mr. Tompkins, Mr. Foley, Dr. Kaye and Mr. Anthony, as to the role and powers of the Commission. It was suggested by Mrs. Josephson that a handbook be written and distributed to Commission members, outlining their duties and functions. She also suggested that the By-laws of the Commission be given to each member.

Mr. Tompkins suggested that one or two briefing sessions would be helpful to the Commission members.

Mr. Benjamin Epstein was then introduced and read a report he had written titled "Expanded Educational Opportunity", a copy of which was given to each Commission member.

After several commendations by members, Mr. Tate moved that a copy of this Report be given to each and every member of the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Commission that this be presented at the very next Board meeting. This motion was unanimously passed.

A motion was made and unanimously passed that a specially appointed Committee of this Commission be sent to the Mayor to urge him to issue a call to the Governor, the State Commissioner of Education, the Presidents of both houses of the Legislature, the two members of the United States Senate from New Jersey, the three members of the House of Representatives who serve Newark in Congress, the United States Commissioner of Education, the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, the Superintendent of Schools of Newark, the President of the Newark Board of Education and the Chairman of this Commission to a meeting on Educational Equality.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Chairman suggested the following Committee Members, all of whom accepted:

Benjamin Epstein
Herbert Tate
Sylvia Josephson

Lucius Tompkins
Paul Cavicchia

A discussion followed regarding the lack of a Chairman of the Commission. Mr. Epstein moved, and it was unanimously passed, that the nomination of a Chairman by the Mayor be accepted.

Mr. Anthony was authorized to call Commission meetings during July and August as the necessity for them arises.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11 P.M.